

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 132130Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 856

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1775

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS & SUBJECT LINES ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES HO, CS, NU, PN, GT, XK

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOLINA VISITS OTHER CA CHIEF-OF-STATE

1. SALVADORAN PRESIDENT ARTURO ARMANDO MOLINA MADE LIGHTNING VISIT TO THE SISTER CA REPUBLICS OF COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA ON APRIL 12 AND GOT TOGETHER AT EACH STOP WITH THE RESPECTIVE CHIEF-OF-STATE FOR ONE AND A HALF HOUR EXCHANGES.

2. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SURPRISE TRIP WAS EXTENSIVE, AND RELATIVELY ACCURATE. THE PRESIDENT WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING FIRST VISITED COSTA RICA AND MET WITH ODUBER (JOINED BY THEIR PANAMANIAN COLLEAGUE GENERAL TORRIJOS WHO HAD SPENT THE WEEKEND IN EL SALVADOR AND GAVE MOLINA A RIDE TO SAN JOSE IN HIS EXECUTIVE JET). NEXT MOLINA FLEW TO MANAGUA AND A MEETING WITH SOMOZA, AND THEN FINISHED UP IN THE LATE AFTERNOON WITH A STOPOVER IN GUATEMALA AND TALKS WITH LAUGERUD.

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3. MOLINA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FONMIN BORGONOVO, MINECON ROBLES AND NEWLY INSTALLED PRIVATE SECRETARY, COL ELISEO LOPEZ ABARCA. THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE PRESS AT EACH STOP THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE ACTUAL STATE OF NORMALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. (HE REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT THERE WAS

NO INTENTION ON HIS PART TO USE THE VISIT TO GAIN IN ANY WAY AN ADVANTAGE OVER HONDURAS.) THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUES, AND THAT THIS IS THE BEST PATH TO REESTABLISHING NORMAL RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT RECENT STORIES THAT THE TWO NATIONS ARE ABOUT TO SIGN A "PEACE TREATY" ARE FALSE. HE REVIEWED THE BIDDING BY SAYING THAT ON FEB 23 HE AND MELGAR HAD INSTRUCTED THEIR FONMINS TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. THAT ANALYSIS PROCESS BY THE CHANCERIES IS STILL GOING ON.

4.THE PRESS QUOTES PRESIDENT MOLINA AS STATING THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES ALSO DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATUS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION EFFORTS, SPECIFICALLY THE LATEST DRAFT TREATY AND CAPITALIZATION PROBLEMS OF THE CA BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (CABEI). MOLINA SAID THAT A MAY MEETING OF THE CA CHIEFS-OF-STATE IN NICARAGUA WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BUT NOT PINNED DOWN.

5.COMMENT - ALTHOUGH THE GOES IS DEEP INTO THE SEMANA SANTA HOLIDAY, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE TO CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO ON APRIL 13 AND DISCUSSED THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. BORGONOVO CONFIRMED THE GENERALLY ACCURACY OF THE MEDIA COVERAGE. HE SAID THE FOUR TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE: NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION WITH HONDURAS; CABEI; THE CA DRAFT INTEGRATION TREATY (A TOPIC THE MINISTER SAID WAS DEALT WITH "SUPERFICIALLY"); AND THE MAY MEETING (NOT DEFINITE).  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO, CS, NU, PN, GT, XK, (MOLINA, ARTURO ARMANDO)  
**To:** STATE INFO GUATEMALA  
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SAN JOSE  
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